

Council on Aging Board Meeting

September 10, 2003

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Lillian Goodman, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager was also present. Board member Helen McLaughlin was excused.

Chairman's Comments:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:10. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. He then provided an update on the status of the new van—a 2003 Dodge. Current delivery is estimated to be in November with some minor add-ons that increased the purchase cost by approximately \$1900. A \$50,000 revolving fund account will be established to cover the operating costs.

Director's Comments:

The Director provided some interesting statistical information on the senior population trends and projections for Shrewsbury. We are experiencing a slight decrease in the total this year, from 5898 to 5772. Sharon also reported that the "04" Formula Grant will likely be approved at \$4.93/senior with the "00" population figures being used. This will give us about \$6000 more than we had budgeted for earlier. (See new business below for additional comments)

Liaison Reports:

Central MA. Agency on Aging: Vicki Zwerdling reported no business was transacted at the last meeting because of the lack of a quorum!

Friends of the Senior Center, Inc.: Helene reported in place of Phyliss Pearson that the Friends have enough concerns about newsletter funding that something must be done to insure continuation beyond December. Ailsa McDonald has been appointed the editor. Some discussion followed to explore options. Paul and John will explore possibilities for help with the Light Department.

Elder Services, Worc./ Outreach: Jacquie Loftgren, our new outreach worker, has served 20 people since July 1st. She will be attending the board meeting in Worcester on Sept. 16.

Shrews. Comm. Part./Children: No report

Old Business:

Nutrition Issues: Paul reported that the town manager has scheduled a meeting with Susan Ramsey at the Age Center to discuss site manager concerns. Letters are in process to our State reps also regarding these concerns. We expect to have a new site manager—a Shrewsbury resident—soon.

Computer Projects: Staff is getting new computers and larger monitors have been placed in the conference room. A revised master list is available for newsletter mailing. Jacquie has also arranged for help in training from WPI.

Health Fair Committee: Details have been completed for the affair on Friday Sept. 26—the State Secretary of Elder Affairs is expected to attend.

Other Spirit of Shrewsbury Events: Helene reported on several items—"Jail and Bail" and "Busy Hands" on the Common and the Sunday parade plans. COA participation in the parade may be minimal this year.

New Business:

Formula Grant Revision: As indicated in the Director's comments we may have some additional funds this year—the board discussed possible increases in the hours available for the outreach and volunteer coordinators positions and support for the newsletter.

MCOA Conference: Tim and John opted to skip the conference this year

Veteran's Celebration Event: COA will host a "Salute to Veterans" on Sunday, November 2nd, from 2—4pm with the U.S. Band of Liberty, Hanscom AFB, Colonial Brass Quintet and the Consortium of Worcester Colleges, U.S. Air Force ROTC Detachment 340.

Other:

Tim reported that we have a new volunteer—Stanley Schieier—providing bridge lessons.

Paul and Sharon are planning to schedule a workshop to develop budget requests for the next year—inputs are needed by the first week in December.

Respectfully submitted,
John Concordia, Secretary